

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING OF THE EDGECOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
&
EDGECOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Edgecombe County Administrative Building Auditorium
201 Saint Andrew Street
Tarboro, North Carolina 27886
Monday, April 20, 2015
6:30 P.M.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRS ANN KENT AND LEONARD WIGGINS, who welcomed all present.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mr. Leonard Wiggins, Chairman, Mr. Jonathan Felton, Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Viola Harris, Mrs. Evelyn Powell, Rev. E. Wayne Hines, Mr. Donald Boswell, and Mr. William Wooten.

ABSENT: None.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Ann Kent, Chairman, Mrs. Evelyn Wilson, Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Marva Scott, Mrs. Olga Dickens, Dr. Evelyn Johnson, Mr. Keith Pittman, and Mrs. Janice Davidson.

ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Lorenzo Carmon, County Manager, Mr. John Farrelly, Superintendent, Mr. Mahlon DeLoatch, County Attorney, Ms. Frangie Mungo, Clerk to the Board, and Ms. Rose Cole, Board of Education Liaison.

Mr. Wiggins moved to add citizen comments to the agenda. Mr. Felton seconded, which carried by unanimous vote.

Martin Millennium Academy (MMA) Presentation:

Mr. Farrelly introduced Ms. Erwin Swanson, Martin Millennium Academy Principal.

Ms. Swanson provided a power point presentation highlighting the following:

Vision - *We will be innovative leaders working for positive change in our global community.*

Mission: *We are Trailblazers! Together we:*

- *Celebrate our strengths and our diversity*
- *Seize opportunities to serve others*
- *Strive for excellence in all that we do*

Our Foundation:

- Global Inquiry-Based Curriculum
 - K: North/Central America
 - 1: South America

- 2: Oceania
- 3: Africa
- 4: Asia
- 5: Europe
- 6-8: Global Studies
- SPLASH! Spanish Immersion (K-5)
- Leadership Development

Our Programs:

- Monthly Global Themes
- Covey's "7 Habits" Integration
- Buddy Classes
- Clubs
- Arts and Athletics
- ECU/Golden LEAF STEAM Lab

Our Scholars:

- 497 total students
- 62% African American
- 20% White
- 18% Hispanic
- 60% of students have financial need

Our Staff:

- 14 International Teachers
- Three "13-14" ECPS Teachers of the Year
- Two former District Teachers of the Year
- Three NC State Northeast Leadership Academy Students/Graduates

Our Motto: *"Where there is no road, we will make one."*

Ms. Swanson introduced Jazmine Bullock, 8th grade student.

Jazmine stated that being a student at MMA she is learning about what is going on around the world. She stated that she participated in extracurricular activities such as volleyball and basketball. Jazmine stated that she is better prepared for Early College and becoming a nurse.

Mrs. Harris asked how the students were chosen to attend MMA.

Ms. Swanson stated that it was on a first come, first served basis. She stated that sixty slots opened up this year and the first sixty that applied were selected.

Mrs. Harris asked if any students left MMA this year.

Ms. Swanson stated that very few left MMA and the reason was due to families moving out of state.

Mrs. Harris stated her concern about students at other schools not having an equal opportunity to learn what the students at MMA learned.

Mr. Farrelly stated that every teacher at every school had professional development training.

Mrs. Powell asked about class sizes at MMA.

Ms. Swanson stated that there are three classrooms per grade level with 23 to 25 students.

Citizen Comments.

There were no citizen comments.

State of the Schools.

Mr. Farrelly stated that there was a fire at MMA in the morning and apologized for the meeting having to be moved from MMA. He stated that one classroom was damaged and MMA was closed for the day.

Mr. Farrelly's presentation consisted of the following updates:

District Initiatives:

- Transformed three schools.
- Brought the global initiative successfully to the entire district.
- Hands on common core curriculum
- Increase in local support
- K-12 Literacy Programs
- Teachers earned 10,000 hours of professional development
- Book Read "Teach Like a Champion" instruction strategies mandated for all teachers
- NELA – recognized as the top educational leadership program in the country

State Department Data Trends:

- State average graduation rate down 46%
- Early College 100% graduation rate last five years
- Dropout rate went down tremendously

Barnhill Acquisition/Parent Resource Center

- \$1.3 million building donated to ECPS by Barnhill located at 2311 Main Street, Tarboro
- Plan to move central office to Barnhill building; moving in next four weeks or so
- Technology department will move from Bridgers Building to the Central Office
- Plan to create a Parent Resource Center at Bridgers Building to provide parent education classes, computer lab and hire a coordinator to teach parent literacy classes

District Leadership

- Proud of district leaders
- Good at recruiting
- Connect in the community

Foundation Pillars to Success

- Early intervention
- Literacy
- Teacher recruitment

Public School Budget

- Charter School impact
- ADM dropped by 900 within five years

- \$500,000 reduction in funding; funding from other categories; \$386,000 in funding support for teachers; \$140,000 low wealth
- Went into fund balance
- 2015-2016 budget process
- Asking for an increase of \$294,000 for supplement from Board of Commissioners.

Joint Use Agreement.

Mr. Carmon stated that the agreement was approved by both boards last year and the only change in the Joint Use Agreement was the proposed change in the term of the agreement from one year to five years.

Mr. Farrelly recommended the proposed term of five years.

Mrs. Wilson moved to approve the Joint Use Agreement as presented with the recommended five year term change. Mrs. Scott seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Powell moved to approve the Joint Use Agreement as presented with the recommended five year term change. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Education Foundation.

Mr. Carmon stated that he would like the Board of Education to partner with the County to provide Education Foundation Housing Program which will provide housing for teachers. He stated that the State Employees Credit Union will loan funds to companies to build the housing facilities and after the loan is paid off the Education Foundation can use the funds to help the school system. Mr. Carmon stated that the County would provide the land.

Mr. Boswell asked Mr. Farrelly if there is a need for housing for the teachers.

Mr. Farrelly stated that there is a need for affordable housing.

It was the consensus of The Board of Education to proceed with the initiation of the Education Housing Program.

Mrs. Kent requested that the Board schedule a work session meeting to further discuss the Teacher Housing Initiative and the Education Foundation Development on May 18, 2015.

Resolution Requesting Restoration of Lottery Funds Designated to Edgecombe County for School Capital Needs.

Mr. Wooten moved to approve the resolution as presented. Mr. Felton seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Mrs. Scott moved to approve the resolution as presented. Mrs. Johnson seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.


Open Discussion.

Mr. Carmon thanked everyone in attendance of the meeting. He stated that he wished he had good news, regarding the budget, but with economic restraints, the County will try to do the best they possibly can based on the County's budget. He stated that the request will be presented to the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Wiggins stated that the County's budget will be looked at by the Manager and the Board and they will continue to provide the best that they can.

There being no further business Mrs. Davidson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Wilson seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Rev. Hines moved to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Powell seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.


Frankie Munge, Clerk to the Board